

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-7 and 17-97 are pending in the application. Claims 18-23, 34-43 and 45-96 have been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement, and claims 1-6, 24-33, 44, and 97 have been allowed. Claim 7 has been amended. New claims 101 and 102 have been added. Therefore, claims 7, 17, 101, and 102 are under examination. Claims 7 stands rejected, and claim 17 is objected to. The specific grounds for rejection and objection are set forth in detail below, along with applicants' response.

Support for the amendment and new claims can be found throughout the specification. For example, the last paragraph on page 23 provides information pertaining to new claims 101 and 102, and the claim 7 amendment "comprising from about 18 contiguous base pairs of SEQ ID NO:3."

II. Objections

Claims 17 is objected to as dependent on a rejected claim (claim 7). Since applicants have amended claim 7 to overcome the rejection, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 7 is rejected as anticipated by Feder *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,872,237). The examiner states that Feder teaches an isolated nucleotide sequence of 3416 base pairs that has 15 contiguous base pairs with applicant's SEQ ID NO: 3. The undersigned called the examiner and received clarification that the 3416 base pair sequence referred is SEQ ID NO:15. Applicants

traverse the rejection, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, claim 7 has been amended to recite "comprising about 18 contiguous base pairs of SEQ ID NO:3." New dependent claims offering larger stretches of homology have been added as well. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-3118 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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